POLITICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Countries BASIC DATA

COUNTRY Capital	***Area*** in 1000 Sq. Km.	***Population*** in millions (1995)	***Avg. Annual Growth*** % pop. (1990-94)	***GDP*** in $US billions (1994)	***GDP*** per capita in $US (1994)	***GNP*** per capita: real growth rate (%) (1985-94)	***External debt*** in $US billions (1995)	***Literacy*** % of pop.	***Density*** per Sq. Km	***Avg. Life Expectancy***
Algeria Algiers	2382	28.54	2..3	42.2	1,512	-2.4	26	57	11.2	68.1
Bahrain Manama	0.62	0.57	2.8	4.7	8,437	-0.9	2.6	84	843	73.9
Djibouti Djibouti	22	0.42	1.48	0.5	805		0.227	48	19	49.7
Egypt Cairo	1001.4	62.3	2.0	45.5	793	1.6	31.2	48	1,085[5]	61.1
Eritrea Massawa	121.1	3.6	2.8	0.54	150				28.8	50.4
Iran Tehran	1648	65.6	2.7	70.6	1,125	-1.0	30	66	36.3	66.9
Iraq Baghdad	437	20.6	3.72				85	89	40.8	66.5
Israel Jerusalem	20.7	5.4	3.8[1]	74.6	13,800	2.5	25.9	95	249.3	78.14
Jordan Amman	89.2	4.1	6..3[1]	5.6	1,307	-6.3	6	83	55.6	72.2
Kuwait Kuwait	17.8	1.8	-6.5[2]	25.1	17.911	-1.3	7.2	74	88.4	75.64
Lebanon Beirut	10.4	3.0	2.0	8.5	2,876		0.765	80	287.9	69.7
Libya Tripoli	1759.5	5.2	3.7	37.9	6,770		3.5	60	2.8	64.27
Mauritania Nouakchott	1030.7	2.2	3.17	1.4	546	0.2	1.9	35	2.1	48.5

[1] Including immigration.
[2] Representing emigration and expulsion following the Gulf War (1990-91).
[3] Total GNP (1994).
[4] GNP per capita (1994).
[5] On 3.5% of territory

SOURCES: United States Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 1995*, Washington D.C. [1996]
World Bank, *Social Indicators of Development, 1995; World Development Report 1995; The World Bank Atlas 1996.*

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Morocco Rabat	446.5	29.1	2.1	31.5	1,182	1.1	20.5	50	36.7	68.9
Oman Musqat	212.4	2.1	4.2	10.8	5,152	0.6	3	35	6.8	70.2
Qatar Doha	11	0.533	2.74	7.9	16,455	-0.8	1.5	76	51.9	70
Saudi Arabia Riyadh	1960.5	18.7	2.2	123.7	6,819	-1.2	18.9	62	7.6	68.5
Somalia Mogadishu	637.6	7.3	15.58	1.4	164	-1.2	1.9	24	11.4	55.74
Sudan Khartoum	2505.8	30.1	2.35	6.6	242	-0.2	17	32	12	54.7
Syria Damascus	185.1	15.4	3.4	42.0	3,016	-2.4	19.4	64	74.6	66.81
Tunisia Tunis	163.6	8.8	2.2	15.9	1,844	1.8	7.7	57	57.9	73.2
Turkey Ankara	780.5	63.4	1.97	149[3]	2,450[4]	1.5	66.6	79	79.1	71.4
UAE Abu Dhabi	75.5	1..95	2.6	37.0	16,923	0.2	11.6	71	30.6	72.5
Yemen San`a	527.9	14.2	5.1	18.7	1,272		7	38	27.2	62.5
West Bank & Gaza Strip	6.220	2.4	4..5	2.6	1,416				1246	71.2

POLITICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Avraham Sela, Editor

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FOREWORD

This new political encyclopedia of the Middle East is an updated and useful source of knowledge on one of the most crucial regions of world affairs in our time. It brings to the reader a wealth of information and scholarly insight on this region, in a historical perspective, with emphasis on the two recent decades, which were marked by cataclysmic events both in and out of the region. Among the more conspicuous events during these two decades were: the Israel-Egypt peace treaty (1979); the Islamic revolution in Iran (1979); the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq war (1980-88); the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war (1990-91); the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War (1991); and the breakthrough in Arab-Israel peacemaking (1993-94). Related to these events were the volatile price of oil, the major natural resource in the Middle East; the intensified demographic and economic predicaments of many states in the region; the gap between the quest for political participation and liberalization, and the political reality of authoritarian, security-obsessed, and politically restrictive regimes; and the rising tide of Islamic radicalism, which has become the primary social and political force in the region.

This encyclopedia takes a special interest in the post-Gulf War and post-Cold War resumption of the Arab-Israeli peacemaking process and its dramatic breakthrough, represented by the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles of September 1993 on the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, followed by the Israel-Jordan peace treaty of October 1994. This breakthrough was above all a reflection of the changing political structures, of both a domestic and inter-state politics, of the Middle East, i.e., the erosion of regional ethno-religious identities rooted in supra-national pan-Arabism and Islam, to increasingly state-based identities and hence, to more pragmatic politics. These changes also brought modest reconsideration of the wrapped up in term "Middle East" regarding its geographical boundaries and cultural essence.

Indeed, despite the prevalent use of the term "Middle East" (Near East in Europe), for decades students and institutions of the international academic community have been divided over the very validity of the term and even more so over its geographical boundaries. Area specialists tended to point to the historical, linguistic and religious commonality of the Middle East peoples, defining the region as one marked by dominant Arab-Islamic identity, which excluded Israel as an alien and non-regional actor. They rejected the term "Middle East" as a reflection of imperialists viewpoint and interests. Some Arab scholars have defined the region as an all-Arab national system of states, arguing that the term "Middle East" was deliberately introduced by Western imperialists to legitimize the existence of Israel in the heart of the Arab homeland. Indeed, the Arab world, "from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Persian] Gulf," constitutes the major part of the Middle East land and population. Israel is indeed an alien entity in this region in terms of its cultural, religious, social and economic characteristics, even though about half of its Jewish population is Middle Eastern by origin. However, from the end of World War I, the nascent political Jewish community in Palestine, and later the state of Israel, has played an indispensable role in shaping the map of the contemporary Middle East. Furthermore, the Arab Israel conflict has left its imprint on the region's political thought and practice, reflecting mainly the Arab-Muslim response to the religious, cultural, territorial and political challenge that the Jewish state constituted to its neighbors. Obviously, Israel played a key role in the region's strategic and international affairs, even though for most of its fifty years of existence Israel's relations with most of the Middle East states were marked by ideological hostility and a practical state of war.

The 1990s also witnessed the growing incorporation of Turkey in the Middle East setting, underlined

by intensified ethnic (primarily concerning the Kurds) and water conflicts with its Arab south and south-eastern neighbors, shared economic interests with Iraq and Iran, and a newly established strategic alliance with Israel. At the same time, Iran has maintained its interest and penetration in the Arab-Muslim Middle East, boosted by its Islamic revolution in 1979.

This volume thus defines the Middle East as a region encompassing the whole Arab world, from the Maghreb in North Africa to the Persian Gulf (including nominally Arab states, hence briefly reviewed—Mauritania, Somalia, Eritrea and Djibouti) as well as non-Arab states: Israel, Turkey and Iran. While this definition derives mainly from a common Muslim identity of the vast majority of the peoples in the region, and their sense of shared regional identity, for the purposes of this encyclopedia it is also necessary to conceive the region in the context of long-term structural interactions among states, as well as the existence of cross-national institutions, trends, and shared economic, security, and political links. Thus, in addition to entries on each state in the region (reviewing land, people, culture, and political history, both domestic and international), major elements of regional significance are amply discussed in this encyclopedia through substantive entries that constitute short essays on issues, such as: Arab Nationalism; Arab-Israel Conflict; Arab-Israel Peacemaking; Islamic Radicalism and Movements; Water Politics; Military Forces; Oil; Non-Conventional Weapons; Refugees and Migrants; Terrorism; and Women. Other entries of regional importance relate to ethnic and religious groups, such as Arabs, Kurds, Druze, Jews, Alawis, Copts, Circassians, Maronites, as well as Muslims (Sunnis, Shi`is, Isma`ilis, etc.), Christians (Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Latin, etc.). In addition, the encyclopedia also includes short entries on leading political figures, parties and movements.

The encyclopedia is arranged in an alphabetical order, with cross-references designed to help the reader find entries close or related to the issue searched. To ease the search, cross-references appear in small caps, non-English words and terms, as well as original names of movements, parties, and ideas, appear in italics. An annexed table provides basic updated data on the Middle East states, such as area, economic growth and main resources, population and population growth, gross domestic product and per capita income, and more.

A short note on transliteration: the approach adopted in this volume is "user friendly," that is, regarding Arabic names, we used the customary way of spelling names and places in the English-speaking world, with a tendency toward a phonetic rather than precise transliteration from Arabic. Al (with capital A) is rarely used as part of a dynasty's name, denoting "The house (family) of...", as opposed to the usual al-, denoting the definite article. In the case of Turkish and Iranian names, we took the closest spelling to the phonetic pronunciation.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this volume: Menashe Amir, Oren Barak, Alexander Bligh, Ela Greenberg, Shiela Hattis, Nurit Kliot, David Kushnir, Meir Litvak, Bruce Maddy-Weizman, Arie Oded, Galit Peleg, Paul Rivlin, Yudith Ronen, Malka Rosin, Barry Rubin, David Sagiv, Yiftah Shafir, Amir Weisbrod, and Danny Zissenwine. I also wish to thank Shoshana Lewis for her dedication and care in handling the technical aspects that such a project entails. I am especially indebted to Rachel Gilon, who masterfully conducted the production of this volume, coordinated, inspired, and encouraged the contributors, copy editors, and typesetters, and made sure that this volume saw the light of day.

Jerusalem

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A

ABBAS, MAHMUD (nickname: *Abu Mazen*) (b. 1933) Prominent Palestinian leader in the PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) and, since 1994, in the PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY. Born in Safed, following the exodus from Mandatory Palestine, and educated in JORDAN, he worked in QATAR. From there he joined the founders of *Fatah* in KUWAIT. Following the take-over of the PLO by *Fatah* in the late 1960s, Abbas held various political, financial and diplomatic positions. From the mid-1970s he became increasingly involved in Israeli affairs and contacts between PLO figures and leftist Israelis. In 1983, after Issam Sirtawi was assassinated, Abbas was appointed direct supervisor of *Fatah's* relations with the Israeli left. This led him to numerous meetings with Israeli leftist figures, primarily in Bucharest and Budapest. Such exposure to domestic Israeli affairs (especially to Ashkenazi-Sephardic cultural divergences), along with a sense of deprivation among Sephardic JEWS in ISRAEL, resulted in the development of his thesis—the potential alignment of Middle East Jews and Palestinians. In his capacity as head of the Department of the Occupied Land, he was sent in 1990 to Moscow for talks with its leaders. This was motivated by an attempt to prevent the wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. After the killing of Khalil al-Wazir (*Abu Jihad*) in 1988, he was appointed head of the PLO delegation to the negotiations with Jordan on the WEST BANK and Gaza. Furthermore, he led the PLO talks with the Jordanian regime following King HUSSEIN's proclamation of disengagement from the West Bank on 31 July 1988.

During the 1980s, Abbas became one of the prominent pragmatists in the PLO. He supported a two-state solution, but continued to write and speak in terms of the "bankruptcy of ZIONISM" and near "collapse of Israel." In 1993, Abbas coordinated the secret talks with Israel in Oslo, which culminated in the signing of the Oslo Agreement. His role was acknowledged in his participation in the ceremony of the signing of the agreement on the White House lawn on 13 September 1993, together with Yasser ARAFAT. With the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza, disagreement erupted between him and Arafat, apparently over his position in the new system of government. However, in 1995 he resumed his position as Chief Coordinator of the negotiations with Israel during the first phases of the Oslo Agreement. Through this position he became Arafat's "number two" in the Palestinian Authority's negotiations with Israel. At the same time, he maintained his position as Secretary of the Executive Committee of the PLO.

Abbas maintains close relations with EGYPT and the Gulf states, traveling there occasionally to enlist material and political support. Abbas belongs to the group of Palestinian pragmatist technocrats who lack the mythical image and manneristic behavior of Arafat and leading combatants of the Palestinian national movement.

ABDALLAH IBN ABDEL AZIZ (b. 1923) Saudi prince, one of the sons of IBN SA'UD (his mother came from the RASHID clan of the Shammar tribes—whose state the Saudis overpowered in 1921); Crown-Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister of SAUDI ARABIA since 1982. Abdallah is considered to head a conservative faction (as opposed to those identified with strong American orientation). He served for some time as Governor of Mecca and, in 1962–1963, as Deputy Minister of Defense. Since 1963 he has been the Commander of the National Guard. When Prince Khaled became King and Prime Minister in 1975, Abdallah was appointed Second Deputy Prime Minister. With Khaled's death and the accession of King FAHD in June 1982, he became Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister. He is therefore supposed to accede to the throne when Fahd dies—but some foresee a potential struggle with Prince Sultan Ibn Abdel Aziz. Abdallah is married to a Syrian woman (said to belong to the ALAWI sect and a relative of President ASAD). In recent years he has